

Correspondence.

TREADWELL WHEAT.

Mr. B. Fawcett, of Arran, County of Bruce, informs us that the Treadwell wheat has yielded well there. He raised 40 bushels per acre on 5 acres; his neighbor raised 500 bushels on 12 acres.

GRUBS IN SHEEPS' HEADS.

Mr. M. Potter, of Chatham, informs us that he once killed a sheep, and, examining the head, found six grubs in it, and the brain all eaten away by them. He thinks long grass a preventive for the grub fly; we think tar on the nose of the sheep is a good preventive.

SEED REPORT.

Sir,—I received the seeds you sent me last spring. One peck of McCarling wheat, sowed in sandy loam, yielded six bushels and a peck of fine, plump grain. One peck of Farrow wheat yielded six bushels, not so plump. From one half bushel of California oats I had thirty-two bushels. The peas and small seeds done remarkably well.

I send you a sample of spring wheat that we raise in this township. It goes by the name of the Redfern wheat. The general yield is from ten to fourteen bushels to the bushel sowed. It stands up well and makes splendid flour. I can send you some of it if you would like to give it a trial.

PAUL SOMERS.
Howe Island, Feb. 14th, 1874.

WATERING CART WANTED.

Sir,—I have often missed raising carrots and turnips in consequence of dry weather setting in after sowing. If you or any of your readers could inform me of a simple and convenient plan to make a machine to be drawn with one horse, and easy to be adjusted in putting water on two drills at once, without wanting water in starting or stopping, you would confer a favor on me and likewise on many other farmers.

DANIEL KING.

Cannington, Ont., Jan., 1874.

A watering cart might be needed for liquid manure, but for watering carrots to cause them to come up, it is all nonsense. Everybody should have their carrots sown early in the spring, before the drouth of summer sets in, or they need not expect a crop of carrots. Half the loss on turnips is caused by preparing the land in dry weather in summer. Turnip land should be prepared in August, instead of June or July.

FEED FOR SHEEP.

There is a saying that "necessity is the mother of invention," and I believe it to be somewhat true. Being short of hay as well as pea straw, I was almost at a loss how to feed twenty Leicester ewes that are with lamb. To buy hay at \$25 per ton would not pay.

I had some good oat straw that had been harvested a little on the green side. I took and cut some very fine, and, after damping it, I mixed a little bran with it. The sheep soon began to eat it greedily. I now feed them with one and a half bushels of cut straw and eight quarts of bran, well mixed up, three times a day, and the last thing in the evening, I give them a little straw. This is what I have fed for a month, and the sheep are improving daily. I don't suppose I am alone in being short of food, and any one similarly situated might adopt this plan with a good result.

In my calculation, taking bran at an average price of ten dollars per ton, which is quite as much as the average (although what I am feeding now cost twelve), and the daily allowance of bran as twenty-four quarts, the whole cost will be seven and a half cents, with the exception of straw and labor, for which I think the manure will be adequate.

M. M.

P. S.—A bushel of bran weighs generally twenty pounds, one hundred of which makes a ton, and that at \$10 makes 10 cents for a bushel of 32 quarts, 24 of which would be 7½ cents.

SHALL WE SHOW EWES OR WETHERS?

There is a saying in the world that "a man is never too old to learn." I have a short lesson I learned when in England a few years ago. With your permission I will lay it before your readers, especially those that are breeders of blooded stock.

When in England I attended several agricultural shows, one in particular, that was held at Lincoln, in Lincolnshire.

The method there is to show shearing wethers instead of ewes, in the sheep classes, and one and two-year old steers in the cattle classes, instead of heifers. The breeders there are unanimous as to the benefit of this system. They say "If I show you good males, you may expect I have good females."

Besides, they say your feed is not lost on the males, as it fits them for the butcher, but it is more than lost on the females, for high feeding at so early an age unfits them for breeding purposes and retards their milking qualities.

I think it would be beneficial to introduce this system here, if we could only get our leading men to give it a trial.

I have been an observer many years in breeding and rearing cattle and sheep, and have in many instances seen both good heifers and ewes retrograde that had been too highly fed at an early age. At the same time I advocate judicious feeding in all cases, especially in young stock; always keep them improving, and they will hand-somely reward the owner. But if they are neglected they will leave but a small margin in the owner's book.

I request my agricultural friends to scan these few remarks, and if they think them beneficial, to embrace them; they are penned in good faith, and will be a boon if fully carried out.

M. M.

St. Catharines, Feb. 3, 1874.

[We should be pleased to have the opinion of some one or more of our exhibitors and prize-takers on this subject.—Ed. F. A.]

ROAD FENCES.

I think H. C. Johnson's note, in the January number, on road fences, a good one. All stock should be kept off the road. A lawful road fence should be what would keep stock on the road while being driven—a very light fence that would not cause the road to fill with snow. A wire fence, where roads fill bad, would be the best. There is much time spent in opening roads every winter, and the roads would be much better in spring if the roads did not fill in so much in winter. If the farmers had not so much fencing to do, they would have more time to plant trees along the roads.

JAMES MCCULLOUGH.

Clarke, 22nd Jan., 1874.

STATUTE LABOR.

I think your remarks for the time of performing statute labor, not suitable for this section of country. We would rather perform it immediately after planting time; besides, I think roads prepared at that season of the year will be in better order for public travel when the fall rains come, than roads newly prepared. There are more heavy loads passing over the roads here from the middle of September till the middle of November than in any other two months in the year. Were the roads repaired at that time it would be more an injury than a benefit to public travel.

WM. EAGLESON.

Coldsprings, 31st Jan., 1874.

LUMBERMEN AND FARMERS.

Dear Sir,—

One of the grievances under which farmers suffer now is the state of the law affecting lumbermen and farmers, that is, farmers in the new settlements, and they are the nurseries of farmers, of a class of men hardy, industrious, thrifty and persevering, who, if they will only realize the idea that they are something more than mere farming machines, will soon make their mark in the country and be an excellent back-set to their older and more affluent neighbors in the front, when that time comes when farmers will work together with a will as a united party.

By the Public Lands Act of 1860 the pine on any lot became the property of the party located on such lot. No doubt this was

abused by parties who took up land only for the pine. At that time the duty paid by lumbermen was about six cents per log; for reasons of state this was shortly raised to ten, to twelve, to fifteen cents. Then in order to pacify the lumbermen for paying this exorbitant duty, and to prevent the abuse of the Act of 1860, the Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868 was passed, which left the duty as it was, but took all the pine from the settlers and gave it to the lumbermen, thus not only taking from the former his first and most available means of making money, but impoverishing the country, for the farmer under the Act of 1860, having a property in the pine, would protect it from fire or other injury to the best of his ability, and there would be groves of pine dotted all over the country, the property of individuals, to supply the local demand long after the pine on the lumbermen's limits had been consumed; but now, if the farmer sees the fire running to a grove of pine, he has no interest in preventing it—indeed, I have no doubt that cases have been when settlers (needy or spiteful) have set fire to a grove, the former with the hope of getting a "job" the next winter, as pine, when burnt, must be cut the same year, or it is spoiled by the grub.

To say that farmers will have the pine at the end of five years, when their deed is issued, is absurd, as the lumbermen will take good care that every available stick is cut before then, and this naturally creates an antagonism between the two, the evil result of unwise legislation. There ought to be mutual advantage.

It has been stated by the *Globe* that lumbermen have given \$100 per ton for hay and a proportionate price for oats, but that paper inferred that the farmers got that. It must have known that three-fourths at least, probably four-fifths of that amount was the cost of transportation; any way it was a heavy charge upon the lumbermen, and when they can get hay at \$7 per ton, and oats at 30cts. or less per bushel, nearly at their own doors, they must admit that farmers are an advantage to them.

These are exceptional cases; as a rule lumbermen pay good prices for farm produce, though some of them claim that they ought to get it 50 or 100 miles back in the woods at the prices which rule at "the front," whilst farmers say that they ought to have those prices with the cost of transport added, and ask "will you bring us groceries, drapery, &c., at front prices?" "Guess not."

I think the fairest way would be to split the difference; farmers would be hard set in many places to sell their produce if it were not for lumbermen, and lumbermen would be put to heavy charges if there were no farmers near them. But these things regulate themselves. However, he is not an honest man who takes advantage of another's ignorance or necessity.

I strenuously maintain that in justice to farmers, and quite as much to preserve some pine in the country, the pine on all located or bought lands should and must be the property of the owner of the land. In the very nature of things the lumber interest is evanescent; they consume, but do nothing to replace; they are the pioneers of civilization, and farmers follow close in their steps—the very foundation of all national prosperity, whose occupation must last till the final consummation of all things.—Therefore, I say, give the farmers full property in the pine on their land, taking sufficient precautions against spurious settlers, which can easily be done, and remit nine or ten per cent. of the duty now paid by lumbermen.

But how, with due regard to the revenue, can this be done? TAX THE QUACKS. We are flooded with empirics, crowded out with pills and potions, pain-killers, vermifuges, pulmonics, hair-dressings and a whole multitude of allies—things without count, to cure everything that everybody ails in every part. They advertise large boxes, and they are large—and half full! they parade bottles which appear to have large quantities in, but they are thick glass. They are quackery in their pretensions, quackery in their facts, their quantities and their cures, for those are almost always deceptive; they are quackery in everything but price, and that is real, and the profits enormous. Let all these be taxed! The Americans pour them upon us in cargoes. Let them all be taxed! In England the smallest bottle or box, or jar pays three half-pence and larger,

3s., 6s., £1. Let the same be done here, and justice can be done to farmers and lumbermen, and have money to spare. In England shop-keepers selling these things have to pay a license. I do not advocate that, but let every bottle, box or other vessel now selling at 25c. have a 3c. stamp, and the dealer ones in proportion, and let every one—buyer or seller—contravening this, be liable to the penalties of the Stamp Act.—At any rate, farmers must have fair play; steps must be taken to preserve some pine in the country, or in a few years farmers and new settlers will have to pay as exorbitant prices for lumber as the *Globe* represents lumbermen paying for farm produce.

I am obliged to leave a good deal to be understood, for fear of encroaching on your space.

If you and your readers have patience with my lucubrations, I purpose treating in my next on Agricultural Societies.

Yours truly,
P. HARDING.

Cardiff, Feb. 9th, 1874.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' PRIZE.

Guelph, Jan'y 1st, 1874

Mr. Editor,—

In looking over your last number I see you have an article on the Prince of Wales' Prize, which says that it was the most important prize given at the Provincial Exhibition, and that it was fairly and honestly won. A very strong doubt of the truth of this runs through my mind. Public opinion all round the ring at the time the decision was made said not, and our very best Canadian judges condemned it. There ought to have been three fresh judges appointed for this prize, unknown to any of the competitors, and then the champagne that was so freely pushed round among our foreign judges during the night previous would then have been of no avail. Now it is very well known that "Prince Imperial" cannot take a prize in any ordinary ring, even at a local show. His heifer calves at London had no place, and his bull calves had a hard struggle to get a third place, "British Baron" (imported) taking every first prize he competed for, "Sheriff" (imported) treading his heels very close in every instance. "Fawsley Chief" (imported), a famous old bull, has swept all before him in his day.

Here are three bulls that can go into any ring and bring out honors. "British Baron" is a bull very hard to beat; he has fine quality, with more substance than we often find in a Townley bull. Imported "Sheriff" is a pleasant looking bull with an extra good beefy top and fine bottom line, and has proved himself one of the best stock getters that ever came from England. Yet in the face of all this we are told they were beat fairly.

We will look a little further into these four herds and try to narrow them down to a money value, which I suppose should be a proper test. One of them has already been brought to the auctioneer's hammer, and one of the others is to be in a few months. On consulting the sale catalogue of the Moreton Lodge herd I find the "Sheriff" and his five heifer calves realizing over \$500 each, and when "British Baron" and his five daughters are brought to the hammer in the month of May, I predict equally as good an average, and would very much like to see "Imperial" and his progeny come to the same test.

Those newspaper puffs are very well if they are not overdone, but when too highly colored they are apt to mislead and do a great deal of harm to the country.

The *Advocate* has battled for fair play with outspoken truths at all times, and this is what the plain Canadian farmer wants. Those smooth, oily-tongued, kid-gloved gentlemen that can intrigue and work underneath to any depths, just for the purpose of gaining a prize, I abhor, and say, "cast them out from amongst us." Let us try and keep our fair fame up to par.

You mention some very high prices obtained for Berkshire hogs at the St. Louis Fair. In the face of the money panic and the Berkshire business being rather overdone, those figures look large. In publishing these sales it would be of more benefit if we could have the names and residence of the purchasers, as we could then refer to a back number should we be in want of any of this kind of stock. I happen to know a little about the price of Berkshire hogs at St. Louis, and would caution breeders of this class of hogs not to be led away with those \$400 a pair prices. It is expensive to raise young hogs, expensive travelling to St. Louis, and then to have to beg customers at \$5 per head is ruinous in the extreme. When Berkshires go at \$60 per dozen depend upon it the game is up with them; better far to ease off for a short season than to continue an unprofitable business.

WESTERN

[As we ask for communications, and as our paper is open for discussions on agricultural